

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 91-494-W - ORDER NO. 94-482
MAY 25, 1994

IN RE: Application of South Atlantic Utilities,)
Inc. for Approval of an Increase in) ORDER
Rates and Charges for the Water System) GRANTING
at May River Plantation in Bluffton,) HEARING
South Carolina.)


This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the May 5, 1994, Petition for Hearing and/or Reconsideration filed by South Atlantic Utilities, Inc. (South Atlantic or the Company). The Petition formally asks for hearing or reconsideration on Order No. 94-395, where the utility was ordered to stop charging Mr. Robert Keiffer, of May River Plantation, an availability fee for his lot. The Company had charged Keiffer an availability fee, even after he had dug his own well and gotten off of South Atlantic's water system. The Company contends that it had the right to continue charging Keiffer this availability fee. Keiffer disagrees, and in Order No. 94-395, this Commission Ordered the Company to discontinue billing Mr. Keiffer for the availability fee.

One of the points raised in the May 5, 1994 Petition is that Keiffer's well could one day become inoperative, and Keiffer may desire to reconnect to the water system. The Company believes that its availability fee is just and correct under this circumstance, and therefore, would like a hearing and/or reconsideration of the

Commission's Order No. 94-395.

After consideration of this matter, we believe that the Company is reasonable in requesting a hearing on this matter. This Commission has not previously considered the issue of an availability fee to a customer who has gone off the Company's system and dug his own well. We believe this matter warrants a hearing, because of its possible precedential value. We therefore grant South Atlantic's Petition for Hearing on this matter. The Staff shall establish an appropriate date and notify all parties. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director

(SEAL)